

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes
Monday March 9, 2026
7:00 p.m. Hayward Community Hall

Mayor Anthony Cox called the regular meeting of the Hayward City Council to order at 7 p.m. on Monday March 9, 2026.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor: Anthony Cox; Councilors: Darwin Dolph, Gene Flaskerud; Derek Lerum; Mark Bangert

STAFF PRESENT: City Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Aase; Operations Director, Travis Reichl

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve March 9, 2026, Hayward City Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the February 9, 2026, Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Fire Chief Eric Knutson presented February’s activity report.

During February, the Hayward Fire/Rescue Department responded to one medical call, one large fire, and one mutual-aid incident.

Replacing the 1995 pumper truck was at issue. After discussion council decided the truck would not be replaced at this time. They asked Knutson to obtain estimates for a new tank. Knutson was asked to report back to council in the next month or so.

Following a review of the price comparisons gathered by Operations Director Reichl, the council voted to replace the steer tires on both the old pumper and tanker trucks. Councilor Bangert made a motion to approve the purchase of four new steer tires—two for each truck—at a total cost of \$1,685.60 from Krohnberg’s Garage in Walters, Minnesota. Councilor Flaskerud seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Knutson reminded council that CPR training will be held after the 6 p.m. meeting on March 11. Advance notice is required for attendance.

Councilor Flaskerud introduced **Resolution 2026-8**, accepting a \$250 donation for the Hayward Fire Department from Alerus Financial. Council decided the donation should be placed in the Fire Department’s equipment fund to be used for equipment as needed. Councilor Lerum seconded the motion. Resolution 2026-8 passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY FORUM: Resident Michael Truesdell inquired about installing an 8-foot fence on his property. The council informed Mr. Truesdell that Hayward’s ordinance regulating fence height for residential property sets a standard maximum height of four feet; however, a copy of the ordinance was not available at the meeting. The council explained that to seek approval for an 8-foot fence, letters would need to be sent to all neighboring property owners to determine whether they would be agreeable to the installation of an eight-foot privacy fence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Although a resolution was approved at the February 9, 2026, City Council meeting directing Clerk Aase to invest funds in Edward Jones certificates of deposit and a money market account due to higher interest rates, Clerk Aase expressed concern about whether such investments were allowable for a city. With council’s approval, she consulted the city auditor. Clerk Aase reported that Hayward’s city auditor advised her to contact the State Auditor’s Office, which in turn recommended she consult the League of Minnesota Cities. An attorney with the League of Minnesota Cities subsequently confirmed that the investments would be permissible.

The council directed Clerk/Treasurer Aase to allocate the former Booster Club cash donation in the amount of \$472,240 (plus any interest accrued) with Edward Jones as follows: \$200,000 in a one-year certificate of deposit at 3.75%, \$200,000 in a nine-month certificate of deposit at 3.80%, and the remaining \$72,240 in a money market account.

To continue assessing whether a water treatment facility can be built, the city engineer explained that the city must approve two resolutions confirming that it is applying for a loan from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (MPFA).

Councilor Flaskerud introduced **Resolution 2026-9**, a resolution acknowledging that the City of Hayward is applying for a loan from the MPFA for the Clean Water Revolving Fund/Drinking Revolving Fund for improvement to its municipal water treatment system/drinking water treatment system as proposed in loan application; the estimated loan amount shall be \$3.9 million or the as bid cost of the project. Councilor Dolph seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2026-10**, a resolution acknowledging that the City of Hayward is applying for a loan from the MPFA for a loan from the Clean Water Revolving Fund/Drinking Revolving Fund for improvements to its municipal water treatment system as proposed in the loan application. The estimated loan amount shall be \$1.5 million or the as-bid cost of the project. Councilor Lerum seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

OPERATIONS UPDATE: Operations Director Travis Reichl reported: The City of Hayward will not contract with Wigham Services for street sweeping this year as certain city streets may need to be excavated if the water treatment facility project moves forward.

Reichl attended the Annual Minnesota Rural Water Association Technical Conference March 3rd – 5th in St. Cloud. Councilor Bangert provided snow plowing service and took samples at the ponds in Reichl’s absence.

ISG Engineering representative Kyle Renneke went over designs and detailed blueprints with city council members and the public at a special open meeting from 6-7 p.m. Prior to the council meeting. He also spoke during the city council meeting. A highly discussed issue was whether the city should keep the clear well in the plans. Even though the water tower is aging, it is still in decent shape. Council decided it would be best to keep the clear well design in the plans. An aging water tower could be a significant factor in why the engineers and the council are paying close attention to whether a clear well stays in the plans. The two serve different roles, but as a tower ages, the clear well often becomes more important, not less.

Councilor Bangert introduced **Resolution 2026-11**, stating it would be in the city of Hayward’s best interest to keep the clear well in the design plans. Should feasibility become an issue, whether or not to keep the clear well may need to be revisited. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. Resolution 2026-11 passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Bangert introduced **Resolution 2026-12**, a resolution approving the 2025 Freeborn County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion carried.

Hayward Clean-up Day was scheduled will take place on Saturday May 16, 2026, from 8 a.m. – noon.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Council directed Clerk Aase to send a letter to BPH Holdings, Inc. of Faribault, the owner of the property located at 104 2nd St. E., Hayward, MN, regarding excessive trash, garbage, refuse, and unlicensed vehicle(s) on the premises.

There were no other council reports.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Bill(s), exceeding \$500, for council’s approval and payment: There were no bills exceeding \$500 to present to council.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the month of January 2026 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and the YTD Budget vs Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Dolph motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. The motion carried.

Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Aase
City Clerk/Treasurer